WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A printer for printing on an electrically writable medium, comprising:

a source of an invisible charge species; and

a charge species projector operable to project charge species from the source onto the medium to electrically reorient switchable display elements in the medium.

2. The printer of claim 1, wherein the charge species source comprises a corona discharge source.

3. The printer of claim 2, wherein the charge species source further comprises a source of a transport fluid for entraining charge species generated by the corona discharge source.

4. The printer of claim 1, wherein the charge species source comprises a source of an invisible molecular species.

5. The printer of claim 1, further comprising a source of a visible charge species projectable by the charge species projector onto a non-electrically writable medium.

6. The printer of claim 5, further comprising a media type detector operable to produce a signal indicative of the type of medium loaded into the printer.

7. The printer of claim 6, wherein the charge species projector projects one of the visible and invisible types of charge species based on the signal produced by the media type detector.

8. The printer of claim 1, wherein the charge species projector comprises at least one electrically chargeable deflector plate.

9. The printer of claim 1, wherein the charge species projector comprises a mask defining an image to be projected onto the medium.

10. A method of printing on an electrically writable medium, comprising projecting invisible charge species from a source onto the medium to electrically reorient switchable display elements in the medium.

11. A printer for printing on an electrically writable medium, comprising:

a source of a charge species; and

a charge species projector comprising a mask defining an image and configured to project charge species from the source through the mask and onto the medium to electrically reorient switchable display elements in the medium.

12. A method of printing on an electrically writable medium, comprising projecting charge species from a source through a mask and onto the medium to electrically reorient switchable display elements in the medium.

13. A system, comprising:

a memory interface operable to write data to a memory of a portable data storage device including an electrically writable medium; and

a print head operable to print on the electrically writable medium of the portable data storage device by electrically reorienting switchable display elements in the medium.

14. The system of claim 13, further comprising a holder for supporting the portable data device while data is being written and while the electrically writable medium is being printed on.

15. The system of claim 13, wherein the memory interface is operable to read data stored on the portable data device.

16. The system of claim 13, wherein the print head is operable to selectively erase regions of the electrically writable medium.

17. The system of claim 13, wherein the memory interface is operable to write data to at least one of an optical storage medium, a magnetic storage medium, and a programmable memory storage medium.

18. The system of claim 13, wherein the print head is operable to project charge species onto the electrically writable medium to electrically reorient switchable display elements in the electrically writable medium.

19. The system of claim 13, wherein the print head is operable to simultaneously print on multiple localized areas of the electrically writable medium.

20. The system of claim 19, wherein the print head includes a two-dimensional array of electrodes for simultaneously printing on localized areas of the electrically writable medium.

21. A method, comprising:

receiving a portable storage device including a memory and an electrically writable medium;

writing data to the memory of the portable data storage device; and

printing on the electrically writable medium of the portable data storage device by electrically reorienting switchable display elements in the medium.

22. An electrically writable display, comprising:

an electrically writable medium containing electrically responsive switchable display elements and being incorporated into a continuous web having an outward-facing side and an inward-facing side, the outward-facing side of the continuous web presenting a display surface of the electrically writable medium; and

a scroll system operable to scroll the display surface of the electrically writable medium through a display area.

23. The display of claim 22, further comprising an external print head operable to print on the electrically writable medium by electrically reorienting switchable display elements contained in the medium.

24. The display of claim 22, wherein the print head is fixed in position relative to the scroll system.

25. The display of claim 24, wherein the print head comprises a linear array of electrodes oriented in a direction substantially perpendicular to a direction in which the continuous web is scrolled by the scroll system.

26. The display of claim 22, wherein the print head is located adjacent to the outward-facing side of the continuous web.

27. The display of claim 22, wherein the print head is operable to selectively erase region of the electrically writable medium.

28. The display of claim 22, wherein the print head is operable to project charge species onto the electrically writable medium to electrically reorient switchable display elements in the electrically writable medium.

29. The display of claim 22, wherein the inward-facing side of the continuous web has an exposed electrically conductive surface and the scroll system comprises at least one electrically conductive roller contacting the exposed electrically conductive surface of the inward-facing side of the continuous web.

30. A display method, comprising:

providing an electrically writable medium containing electrically responsive switchable display elements and being incorporated into a continuous web having an outward-facing side and an inward-facing side, the outward-facing side of the continuous web presenting a display surface of the electrically writable medium; and

scrolling the display surface of the electrically writable medium through a display area.

31. An electrically writable display, comprising:

an electrically writable medium having a front side and a back side and containing electrically responsive switchable display elements, the front side presenting a display surface including an optically transparent, electrically conductive layer; and

an external print head disposed adjacent to the back side of the electrically writable medium and operable to apply an electric field sufficient to electrically

reorient switchable display elements contained in the electrically writable medium, the applied electric field extending from the back side of the electrically writable medium, through the electrically writable medium, to the front side display surface.

32. The display of claim 31, wherein the print head comprises a linear array of electrodes.

33. The display of claim 32, further comprising a scanning system operable to scan the print head across the back side of the electrically writable medium.

34. The display of claim 31, wherein the print head is operable to selectively erase region of the electrically writable medium.

35. The display of claim 31, wherein the print head is operable to project charge species onto the back side of the electrically writable medium to electrically reorient switchable display elements in the electrically writable medium.